1 EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California 2 GREGORY J. SALUTE Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 ALVARO MEJIA, State Bar No. 216956 Deputy Attorney General 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 5 Telephone: (213) 897-0083 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804 6 Attorneys for Complainant 7 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 8 BUREAU OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 10 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. VN-2006-1910 11 LUCIRALI MEZA, 12 aka LUCIRALI MEZA BARRERA, ACCUSATION aka LUCY SEUNG 13 693 Pepper Drive, Apt. E Hanford, CA 93230 14 Vocational Nurse License No. VN 209203 15 Respondent. 16 17 Complainant alleges: 18 **PARTIES** 19 1. Teresa Bello-Jones, J.D., M.S.N., R.N. (Complainant) brings this 20 Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Bureau of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, Department of Consumer Affairs. 21 On or about May 7, 2004, the Bureau of Vocational Nursing and 22 2. Psychiatric Technicians issued Vocational Nurse License Number VN 209203 to Lucirali Meza, 23 24 aka Lucirali Meza Barrera, aka Lucy Seung (Respondent). The Vocational Nurse License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on April 25 30, 2010, unless renewed. 27 111 28 111

## JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Director of Consumer Affairs (Director) for the Bureau of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

### STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- Section 477 states, in pertinent part, that "Board" includes "bureau," 4. "commission," "committee," "department," "division," "examining committee," "program," and "agency." "License" includes certificate, registration or other means to engage in a business or profession regulated by the Business and Professions Code.
- 5. Section 118, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Bureau jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Under Section 2892.1, the Bureau may renew an expired license at any time within four years after the expiration.
- Section 490 provides, in pertinent part, that the Bureau may suspend or 6. revoke a license when it finds that the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed vocational nurse.
- Section 2875 provides, in pertinent part, that the Bureau may discipline the 7. holder of a vocational nurse license for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2875) of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act.
  - 8. Section 2878 states, in pertinent part:

"The Board may suspend or revoke a license issued under this chapter [the Vocational Nursing Practice Act (Bus. & Prof. Code, 2840, et seq.)] for any of the following:

- "(a) Unprofessional conduct . . .
- "(f) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensed vocational nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be

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conclusive evidence of the conviction. . . ."

9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2521 states, in pertinent part:

"For the purposes of denial, suspension, or revocation of a license pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the Business and Professions Code, a crime or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed vocational nurse if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a licensed vocational nurse to perform the functions authorized by his license in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare. . . ."

10. Section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Bureau may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

## FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Conviction of a Substantially Related Crime)

- 11. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Sections 490 and 2878, subdivision (f), as defined in California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2521, in that on or about July 30, 2007, Respondent was convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed vocational nurse which to a substantial degree evidences her present or potential unfitness to perform the functions authorized by her license in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare. The conviction is as follows:
- a. On or about July 30, 2007, in a criminal proceeding entitled *The People of the State of California v. Lucirali Meza Barrera* in the Superior Court of California, Kings County, Case No. 07CM1157, Respondent was convicted on her plea of *guilty* to count one, violation of California Penal Code section 273a(a) (child endangerment), a felony. The Court ordered Respondent to five (5) year probation, two (2) days jail, provide DNA testing pursuant to Penal Code section 296(a)(1), provide samples pursuant to Penal Code section 298.1(b)(1)/298.1(b)(2), and pay restitution, fines and penalties.

The circumstances of the conviction are that on April 3, 2007, Hanford b. Police Department officers responded, at about 11:36 p.m., to a call for a welfare check of Respondent's children. Respondent's three (3) children, Jade B., age 5, Ian B., age 3, and Neil B., age 1, were found at home alone without supervision. Jade B. told the officers that her mother was at work and that she would get home when the sun was up. The officers found the residence in disarray and unkept: dirty dishes and trash laying about the kitchen, clutter of clean and dirty clothes in piles all over the floor and in the closet of a bedroom, and blankets laid out on the ground in the living room with the youngest child sleeping on one of the blankets. Most of the apartment's rooms emitted foul odors of dirty diapers, urine, and garbage. The refrigerator was locked and made inaccessible with a bungee cord. Child Protective Services was contacted and the children were released to their custody. The officers contacted Respondent at Avenal State Prison, where she was employed as a licensed vocational nurse. Respondent was detained and arrested at her place of employment.

## SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Unprofessional Conduct)

12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2878, subdivision (a), in that Respondent committed acts of unprofessional conduct. Complainant refers to and by this reference incorporates the allegations set forth in paragraph 12, subdivisions (a) and (b), inclusive, above, as though set forth fully.

#### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Director of Consumer Affairs issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Vocational Nurse License No. VN 209203,
  issued to Lucirali Meza, aka Lucirali Meza Barrera, aka Lucy Seung;
- Ordering Lucirali Meza to pay the Bureau of Vocational Nursing and
  Psychiatric Technicians the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case,
  pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;
  - 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: August 7, 2008

TERESA BELLO-JONES, J.D., M.S.N., R.N

**Executive Officer** 

Bureau of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California Complainant

DOJ Matter ID: LA2007602187 60317599.wpd